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UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJ: U.S. - CHINA MILITARY-TO-MILITARY PROGRAM

SUMMARY: Military-to-military relations focused on **transparency, reciprocity, mutual respect and understanding** are **vital** to U.S. engagement strategy. A system of routine contacts can weather Sino-U.S. disagreements in other areas.

KEY POINTS

- * Urge **counterpart visits** and PLA participation in **multinational symposia**
- * Ship visits, to include continuing **Hong Kong** port calls, are opportune contacts
- * We support bilateral PASSEX, SAREX, and humanitarian/disaster relief exercises
- * Functional visits focusing on mutual learning will forge stronger relationship

DISCUSSION

- * Encourage expanded Chinese participation in **multinational symposia**
 - ** USCINCPAC sponsored: Asia-Pacific Center; Logistics Seminar; Mil Ops and Law
 - ** USARPAC: Pacific Armies Management Seminar; Military Medical Conference
 - ** PACAF: Airmen's Symposium; Pacific Rim Air Doctrine Symposium
 - ** PACFLT: Operational Medical Symposium; International Seapower Symposium
- * **Continuing USN ship visits** following **Hong Kong's** reversion will significantly increase routine U.S.-China mil-to-mil contact
- * Reciprocal ship visits as PRC deems appropriate can also be offered again
- * Bilateral PASSEX, SAREX or humanitarian/disaster relief exercise should be conducted with PRC
 - ** Anticipate China MOD visit to U.S. and Hawaii in Dec. will further mil to mil opportunities
 - ** OSD has proposed to PLA that bilat exercise be conducted in 1998
 - ** **USCINCPAC counterpart** visit to Hawaii likely in Spring 1997
 - ** China likely to accept offer to send small technical team (Jan 97) to explain generic USN ship visit procedures
- * Functional visits focusing on **mutual learning** will forge **stronger relationship**

BOTTOM LINE: Many activities to **productively routinize the U.S.-China mil-to-mil relationship** are possible. Stronger mil-to-mil relationships with China will better secure peace and prosperity in the Pacific.